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DDI- 10423-82/1

General Counsel

82-11487

20 DEC
1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Legislation Division
Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Comments on Creation of "Drug Czar"

REFERENCE: Memorandum for DDI from Chief, Legislation Division, OGC, dated 22 December 1982, Subject: Administration Position on Legislation That Would Establish a New Office of National and International Drug Operations and Policy

1. I have reviewed the referenced Congressional proposal and do not support efforts to create a cabinet level "drug czar."

2. Establishment of a "drug czar" would at best add bureaucracy to current federal efforts to combat the illegal drug problem. It would inevitably exacerbate turf battles thereby undermining interagency cooperation as the federal agencies would seek to protect their perceived organizational interests. At worst, the complication of policy and operational directives from a cabinet level "drug czar" only loosely accountable for resource expenditures might erode current progress

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3. DDI personnel are in contact with the strategic narcotics policy elements of the federal government. We routinely provide support to Dr. Carlton Turner, the White House Advisor on Drug Abuse Policy, and to the Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics Matters. I believe that these two entities combined with the DCI's establishment of the National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics and the tasking of the Deputy Director of the Intelligence Community Staff to focus on narcotics issues satisfy many of the concerns of Senators Biden, DeConcini, and Pell. These appointments represent the use of existing resources in a sensible way and draw together the traditional Intelligence Community and other federal organizations concerned with the illegal drug problem.

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Robert M. Gates

Deputy Director for Intelligence

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